transactional cost and time with a view to providing level playing field to Indian exporters. These measures include extension of zero-duty EPCG shceme to textile sector and certain sub-sectors of chemicals; exemption of additional customs duty under zero duty EPCG scheme for marine and software sectors; introduction of Annual Advance Licence Scheme; rationalisation of EOU/EPZ scheme; recognition for export of services, decentralisation of decision making and time bound disposal of various categories of applications.

Potential for Newsprint Production

1852. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that we have a higher potential for newsprint production now; and

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to increase indigenous newsprint production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has taken a number of steps to increase the indigenous production of newsprint which include:—

(i) Newsprint Industry has been delicensed subject to locational policy.

(ii) Newsprint has been exempted from excise duty.

(iii) There is a concessional rate of Customs Duty @ 5% on pulp for manufacture of newsprint.

(iv) With a view to encouraging the indigenous availability of newsprint, such paper mills which are producing newsprint conforming to BIS standards are placed in Schedule-I to the Newsprint Control Order, 1962 declaring them as mills manufacturing newsprint.

Import of Newsprint

1853. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantity of newsprint expected to be imported this year;